TAGUCHI METHOD IN BIOPROCESS ENGINEERING: *Case Studies*

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Design of Experiments Using Taguchi's Approach

Maizirwan Mel and Najiah Nadir

1. Overview

Design of Experiments (DOE) is a powerful statistical technique introduced by R. A. Fisher in England in the 1920's to study the effect of multiple variables simultaneously. In his early applications, Fisher wanted to find out how much rain, water, fertilizer, sunshine, etc. are needed to produce the best crop. Since that time, much development of the technique has taken place in the academic environment, but did help generate many applications in the production floor.

As a researcher in Electronic Control Laboratory in Japan, Dr. Genichi Taguchi carried out significant research with DOE techniques in the late 1940's. He spent considerable effort to make this experimental technique more user-friendly (easy to apply) and applied it to improve the quality of manufactured products. Dr. Taguchi's standardized version of DOE, popularly known as the Taguchi method or Taguchi approach, was introduced in the USA in the early 1980's. Today it is one of the most effective quality building tools used by engineers in all types of manufacturing activities.

The DOE using Taguchi approach can economically satisfy the needs of problem solving and product/process design optimization projects. By learning and applying this technique, engineers, scientists, and researchers can significantly reduce the time required for experimental investigations. DOE can be highly effective when you wish to: